Illicit transport of tapioca.

217. MR. N. V. CHACKO : Will the Honourable Minister for Excise be pleased to State ;

(*a*) if an instance was reported of smuggling or illici. transport of tapioca from Kumarapuram to the Cochin State via Puthenchungom, Vettuveli and Koonananjilli ;

(*b*) whether enquiries by the Excise Department and then by the Police Department were ordered ; and

(*c*) whether these enquiries have been ended and what was the result of such enquiries.

HON'BLE MR. K. M. KORAH : (*a*) A petition containing allegations about smuggling of tapioca was received.

(*b*) Enquiries were conducted by the Excise Department.

(*c*) Enquiries were completed. There was no trustworthy evidence to prove the alleged smuggling of tapioca.

MR. P. THANULINGOM NADAR (*Agastheeswaram—Hindu Nadar Reserved*) : On a point of order ; The question was put to the Excise Minister and the answer was given by the Food Minister. Is it in order ?

HON'BLE MR. K. M. KORAH : There was a complaint that an enquiry officer shielded culprit. The petitioners said that certain officers were helpful in smuggling.

MR. N. V. CHACKO : Was any enquiry conducted on the matter ?

HON'BLE MR. K. M. KORAH : There was no complaint about any Enquiry Officer.

WRITTEN ANSWERS.

Levy of Water-Tax.

218. DR. M. O. CHERIAN (*Devicolam-General*) : Will the Honourable Minister for Land be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether a water tax is levied for the paddy lands at Marayoor in Devicolam taluk over and above the basic tax ;

(*b*) if a water tax is levied the rates at which the tax is collected per acre ; and

(*c*) whether the cultivators of the land are given compensatory extra price for the paddy purchased by Government if water tax is collected ?

HON'BLE MR. C. KESAVAN : (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

(*c*) The question does not arise in view to answers (a) & (b).

Police Stations in Devicolam.

219. MR. M. O. CHERIYAN : Will the Honourable Minister for Police be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Police Stations in Devicolam taluk have been ear-marked as stations for employment during the period of punishment of those of the Police staff who receive severe departmental punishments ?

HON'BLE MR. A. THANU PILLAI: No.

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